2-23-96

Basketball in Playoffs
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Valley Star

Valley's Community Service Program
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Volume 48, Issue No. 2 | Los Angeles Valley College | Van Nuys, California | February 23, 1996

The grades are in the mail...

by Kelli Morgan
Valley Star Staff Writer

On Thursday, Feb. 15, when asked why students had still not received their grades from last semester, the Dean of Student Services, Sam Mayo proclaimed, "The last of the grade mailers have been delivered to the post office today." Sound familiar?

According to Mayo, the delay in student report cards or "grade mailers" was due to the conversion of the entire school district's computer systems— from the old Honeywell Bull system to a new DEC (Digital Equipment Corporation) system.

When it came time to process grades from last semester and prepare the mailers, the new, $2.5 million system would not accept a "W" in the grade status column, nor would it accept honors classes.

Another glitch that happened, was the system overloaded while too many students, instructors and administrators were using it all in the same time period. In any case, the problems have been resolved and the student grade mailers reached many homes over the next few days. If you haven't received yours, well, it's in the mail.

The conversion between the computer systems began in November of 1994 and still continues today. That sounds like a long time until you consider that there are about 98 thousand students in the district, and the data that needs to be put into the computer dates back 15-20 years.

There was enough information input, however, for the schools to begin the admission and enrollment process this year. Unfortunately, all the bugs hadn't been worked out which in turn, caused the overload when many tried to register, add/drop, etc. by phone.

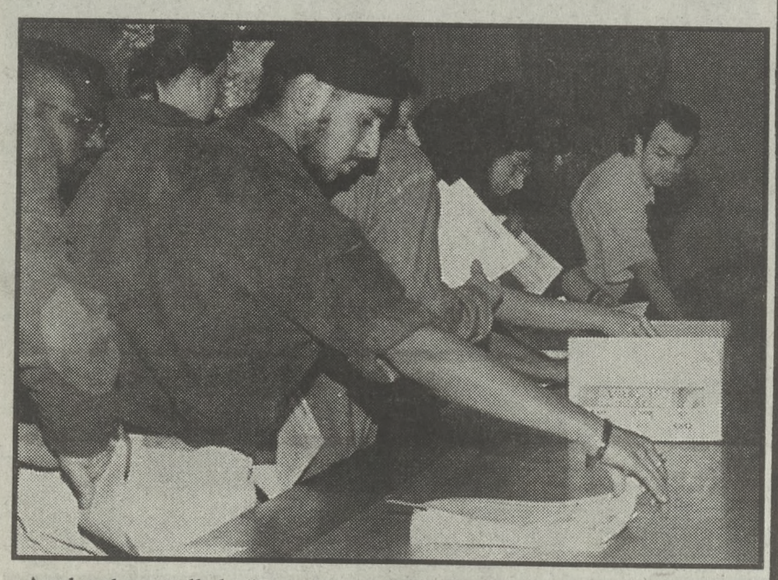
Even though it got off to a rough start, Mr. Mayo was very enthusiastic about the new system and said it was, "Absolutely fantastic, when it was working."

Some instructors were "infuriated" with the system's problems, but many of them have changed their minds after seeing how fast and user-friendly the DEC system really is.

It is able to pull up things like student information, class location, student grades (by semester) and more, all within a second or two. The old Honeywell Bull system usually took 30 seconds to a minute to pull up and switch between the same information.

The new computer system within the school district will also provide access to the Internet, eventually, but that's another story.

It was absolutely fantastic--when it was working.



A handout called "Skeptic" was available after the debate.

Evolution or Creation: Still Undecided

Jo-ana D'Balcazar
Valley Star Staff Writer

Last Thursday, Feb. 8, a faculty forum on Evolution and Creation, raised lots of expectations among students and faculty. The three speakers were Leon Albert, Prof. of Anthropology, covering scientific creationism; Zev Garber, Prof. of Jewish Studies, addressed the issue of Genesis and Morality; and Kelly Ross, Prof. of Philosophy, covered politics, economics, philosophy, and creationism. The moderator was Jack Sterk, Academic Senate President.

While the purpose of the forum was to present views on creation and evolution, several students were not happy with the outcome. Candice Jackson, a pre-law student, said, "I was disappointed that there was not a true pro-creation view point. There was definitely a pro-evolution and everything in between. Other than that I appreciate the different perspectives. Political and economic perspectives were very interesting."

However, other students were satisfied with the conference. Orlando Amaya, major in Psychology, said the conference helped him to have a different perspective of what is knowledge, religion, and how to be part of society, without fighting between science and philosophy.

He said that people can create bridges to communicate with others and respect their beliefs and culture. Nevertheless, Amaya expressed his discomfort with the organizers for not giving the students more time to ask their questions.

Although some students were listening carefully and taking notes, others fell asleep. On the other hand, a few students just walked out of the room unhappy with the organization. "Organizers should present a balanced and more concise forum where the audience can clearly see the point of view of creationism and evolution, so students can make their own conclusion," said Jane Smith, a guest invited by a student.

Reverend Barbara Purdy said, "I wish there have been someone speaking for creationism, even if I wouldn't agree with them. It would have been good to hear that side, but I imagine it's hard to find an academic person to speak from that point of view."

According to the organizers and several students, the conference was a success. Albert, one of the speakers and organizers, said he was happy with the outcome, but that the would like to see more student participation. He considers the possibility to organize additional conferences, at least one per semester.

Ross said the conference served its purpose, "There were lots of people and there was more to say. I was more interested in the irony of people being for one kind of theory in one place, and being against a similar kind of theory in another area."

Renato Calderon, a Community Advisor, said he enjoyed the topics explained by the three panelists, especially Mr. Garber. "He was the one with more substance, and the one who got the most applause. Especially when he made the remark of the scripture, 'Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do,' and his personal statement changing it to, 'Forgive them not Father, for they know what they do,' in relation to murderers and death penalty."

Matt Johnson, a psychology major, agree the conference was very interesting, but definitely he would prefer more questions from the audience to the speakers. To accomplish this goal, Dawn Mosavi-Nejad, a student of Hebrew and Philosophy, suggested a smaller and more informal situation to allow more student participation.

Students in general agree that this type of conference should be extended and planned more often. As Garber said, "The whole objective is to stimulate even further thoughts, and I think that was successful."

Parking Violation?

by Liz Barrett
Valley Star Staff Writer

On February 1, 1996, Jaime Soto, a Valley College sociology student left his evening class to head home. As he neared his truck he noticed a parking citation on his window. Feeling that he was unjustly given the ticket, he headed straight for the campus police office with the intention of clearing the matter up.

He said he was told by the clerk in the office that he was given the citation because he did not display his parking sticker appropriately. According to Soto, one of the employees told him that he must have just purchased the parking sticker. It was not on his rear view mirror or windshield when she issued him the citation.

After trying to rectify the matter with several people in the office, Soto asked to speak with an officer and was informed that one was on his way. While waiting outside for an officer to arrive, another student entered the office concerning a parking ticket he had just received. Soto claimed that the student was let go almost immediately without having to pay the citation; when this happened, Soto felt blatantly discriminated against.

Soto wanted to know why the white, male student was let go with no fine and no penalty, while he continued to wait for an officer to show up to dispute his citation.

Soto waited 15 minutes for an officer to arrive before re-entering the office and asking what was taking so long. The employee working in the office replied that she hadn't phoned an officer yet.

Soto demanded to speak with an officer and shortly thereafter, Officer Gail Tam arrived and proceeded to inspect the placement of Soto's parking permit. After seeing the vehicle, Officer Tam reportedly told Soto that the sticker was improperly displayed and that he would have to pay the $25 fine. Tam told Soto that he needed to display his parking permit on the inside rear view mirror.

Soto explained to Officer Tam that his 1965 Chevy pick-up did not come with an inside rear view mirror, however, if they discarded the ticket he would be happy to display it elsewhere on his vehicle. Officer Tam refused and told Soto he would need to see Captain Karl Traber if he wished to pursue the matter further.

Soto claims Officer Tam told him if Captain Traber ruled the citation unjustifiable, he would still have to pay a $5 fine because Valley College does not have the money to pay for the citation in full.

Soto, although reportedly feeling emotionally drained and discriminated against, left campus with the intention of returning to talk with Captain Traber the following day.

Soto explained to Captain Traber that he has always had his parking permit in the same place on his truck since he started attending Valley College— three years ago. After speaking with Traber the citation was revoked, and Traber asked Soto to put the incident behind him.

Soto stated he could not and would not put the incident behind him because the unjust, discriminatory treatment he felt he had received, was too big of an issue to sweep under the rug.

Soto asked Captain Traber to talk with his night staff about the rude treatment displayed toward him the previous night.

Soto wanted to add, "Justifiable cause means not living up to the proverbial white male mold. As a Mexican-American male, I did not pass the test. How many others on campus do not fill this mold and how many others will be treated unjustly by Valley College Campus Police?"

In response to the incident involving Jaime Soto, Captain Traber said Soto's permit was not displayed in the appropriate place, but he dismissed it because Soto had paid for the permit at registration time and had agreed to change the location of the permit.

"Everyone has the right to a hearing," said Traber. He added that his office is open to handle any disputes between 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., Monday trough Friday.

Photo By Maria Ivey

Dr. Richard Moyer, Dr. Synthia Saltoun, Dr. Frank Sinshiemer, and Barbara Goldberg cutting the ribbon for the new career center.

Next issue: coverage of the ASU's first meeting

News Notes

Classes in women's self-defense training, provided by The Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women, are being offered at the Encino Community Center. The next class is Sunday, March 24 and continuing classes will be offered on the fourth Sunday of each month. For registration and information, call (213) 462-1356 or (213) 462-8410.

A new short-term class, Spanish 50, (held from 11:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m. M/W), will be offered starting February 26. To enroll, ask for ticket #0730 in the admissions office.

The LAVC Planetarium will offer a show called "The Winter Sky" on Friday 2/23, at 8p.m.. The Planetarium is located newar the southwest corner of campus. Call (818) 781-1200 x335 for prices and other information.

Catholic Big Brothers, Inc. is looking for Big Brother role models (18 years and older) for children in your community. For information on orientation dates and times call 1-800-463-4066.

Learn the facts about Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) on Monday, Feb. 5 from 1:30-2:30p.m. in the Campus Center room 208. For more information you can call the Student Health Clinic at (818) 780-0652 or visit them in the Women's Gym.

California Conservation Corps is gearing up for its 20th year and they are seeking former coprsmembers to invite them to their anniversary celebration and to see what they're up to. Please call Susanne Levitsky at (916) 445-6819 for details.

B.S.U. (Black Student Union) meets every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Foreign Language building room 112. This weeks topic is "African or American; What are we?"

The Sixth Annual Hillel Charlotte and Jack J. Spitzer Forum on Public Policy willbe held in St. Louis from Feb. 11-13. 200 Jewish students representing 75 college campuses throughtout the U.S. will attend. For more information on the event call Nurite Rosin at (202) 857-6576.

Looking for something to do during spring break? Why not go to Jamaica? There are special, affordable packages available to students for Spring Break '96 in Jamaice. Call (203) 322-4700 for details.

Video students—get your cameras ready. The Christophers Ninth Annual Video Contest deadline for entries is Friday, June 7. Interested students may call The Christophers, College Contest at (212) 759-4050.

The American Cinematheque's Alternative Screen Series will present an 8-night series of Spanish filmmaking starting February 29 - March 7 at the Directors Guild on Sunset Blvd. Tickets are available from THEATIX (213) 466-1767. For *information only* on the shows, you can call (213) 466-FILM.

AIDS UNAWARENESS

by Monica Lid

AIDS and HIV.

Are you tired of hearing about this issue by now? Many of you might say yes , and believe you are safe, whatever that means, but think about this for a second; more than 1,000,000 Americans were diagnosed with AIDS or HIV from June'81 to June'95. If you right now believe the subject-matter does not concern you, consider that AIDS is a disease spreading rapidly among young, sexually active people. Now, you might want to reevaluate your standpoint. In times like this I find it frightening to learn that you, the students of LAVC, do not seem to know, or care to know, about the dangers of this deadly disease. Because if you think you are beyond the reach of AIDS, you have never been more wrong. It does concern you if you are sexually active.

A service offered here at LAVC is free, monthly HIV testing. Also each month, the Student Health Office presents speakers from the support organization Being Alive, who give lectures on living with AIDS. Talks , which are held in the Campus Center. It all seems pretty great doesn't it?

There is one problem though, only a few of you take advantage of these services. According to health officials, an average of 40 people sign up for testing each month and it is not even worth mentioning how many attends the lectures. What is going on?

We are approximately 15,500 students enrolled for the spring semester here at Valley, and I figure many more than 40 of you a month (400 per year) have had sex with more than one partner. Because if you have, YOU are considered to be a part of the danger group.

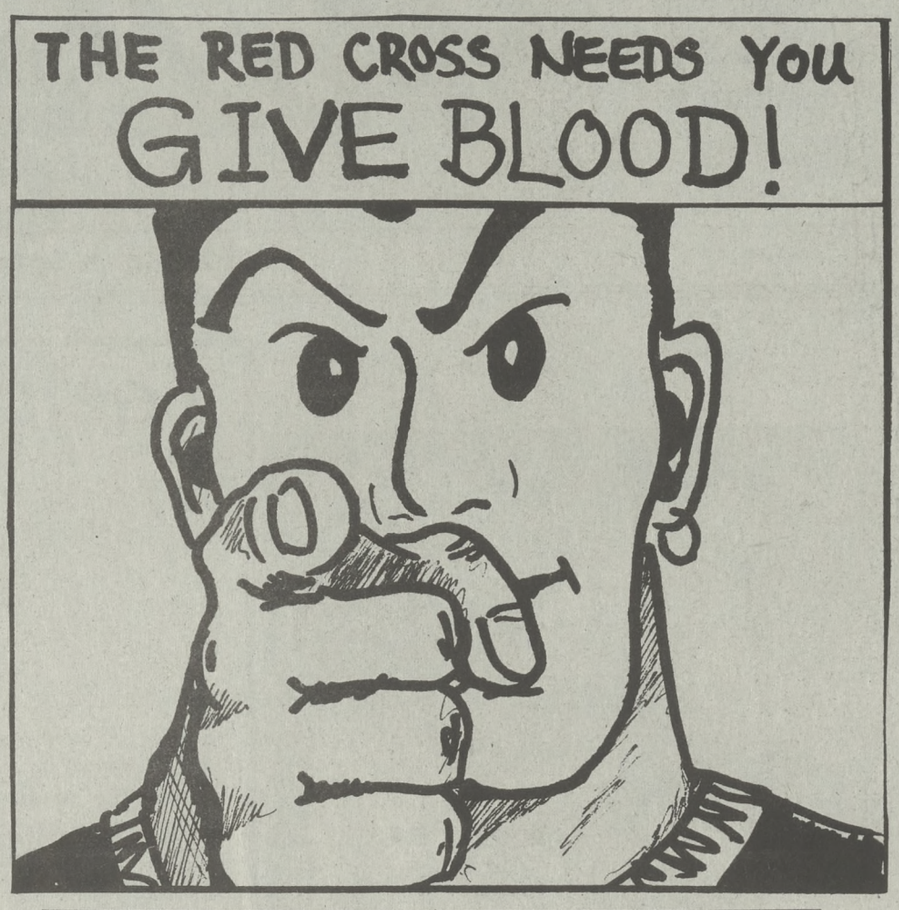
What we have to realize is, so far, there is no cure for this disease. Infection means death. So, it is up to each one of us, individually, to make sure we do not contract, or in some cases spread, this disease.

No matter what the situation is, people can not validate an excuse for living in denial. Each person needs to take responsibility for themselves and their peers, ergo GET TESTED .

THIS IS WHERE YOU SHOULD BE :

HIV Testing:March 13 and14 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Student Health Clinic.

And Being Alive-Living With AIDS: March 4.in CC208 1:30-2:30 p.m.



The Red Cross blood drive runs Feb. 28 and 29 from 10 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.
For an appointment, call (818) 780-0652. All donators receive free T-shirts.

Beck on Tech: Online Empowerment

by John Beck
Valley Star Staff Writer

You've all seen the magazine cover stories heralding the arrival of the new information age, the digital revolution, the electronic freeway/information super-highway, whatever. You've watched the surge of mergers and deals among telephone, cable, computer and media giants, and you know something is happening along the edges of the techno-economic-societal frontiers. And you may well be wondering, "What's in it for me?"

Technoids and propeller heads notwithstanding, is there really something to be gained from pointing your "Web Browsers" to www.paramount.com before taking your significant others to see Lethal Weapon V? Well, let's scan the datasphere and see if we can separate the real from the hyped.

Even if you haven't read Bill Gates' new book, you've probably heard that we'll soon be seeing not 75 or 100 or 200 cable channels, but 500. For real; within the decade you'll have access to shopping, movies, magazines,art galleries and other types of information on demand through interactive TV--which will actually be some combination of telephone, television and computer. It will all be managed by a box on top of your TV that will be, can you guess?--a very powerful computer. Unlike today's PCs, however, it will be very easy to use; more like the remote for your TV than a computer. You'll choose from a menu of options: Want to see a movie? Shop? Do your banking? Or watch a TV program that was on yesterday but that you missed because you were out with friends? It will all be available to anyone--for a price.

Come 2001 it things will begin to look like a promo for Johnny Mnemonic. Your computer will be equipped with some implementation of Virtual Reality which will allow you to feel as if you're actually in the mall, visiting your family, in the middle of the latest Quentin Tarintino pulp dream or relaxing on the beach in Cancun with Uma Thurman (my personal choice).

The technology, of course, still lags behind the fantasy. The first generation of these set-top devices (and the complex infrastructure needed to make them work) is several years away. Cost and ease of use are major stumbling blocks, but there are a lot of smart people slaving away day and night to make this dream come true.

Once in place, however--and it is just a matter of time this information network will empower each of you with vast resources of knowledge and connectivity for use in work and leisure, if you get hooked up. Through online computer systems you'll have access to huge electronic storehouses of information now housed in far-flung and inaccessible libraries around the planet. With video telephony you will be able to communicate instantly in voice, picture and text with business colleagues and loved ones thousands of miles away. In addition you'll be connected to video and CD-ROM servers providing you with movies, games and interactive diversions of every conceivable description; and probably a few inconceivable as well.

When you wake up in the year 2001, you will have a section of the "newspaper" called the Daily Me, devoted entirely to the people, places and ideas that interest you. When you turn on your car radio it will automatically play news important to you. When you want to see a movie, the system will recommend an excellent one, suited to your tastes, just like your friends might do today.

Along with the benefits of such a system will come serious questions of privacy, control, regulation, access and content: what will you actually be getting, who's giving it to you and what are they gonna charge?

Right now there's a battle being waged on the precursor to this mother of all systems, the Internet (or "Information Cowpath"); that will determine some of these things. Some people see large information providers controlling vast tracts of intellectual property and unlimited numbers of "channels" on which to deliver it. Others want the frontier broken down into small segments each owned by a user of the system.

As with any new frontier, there are promises and there are risks awaiting us along this so-called information highway. But one thing is certain: these changes in technology will affect us all.

John Beck's look at communication technology will continue Mar. 7, 1996

Editorial

After months of deliberation, the budget subcommittee from the Academic Senate made its final recommendations for the Block Grant funds.

The grant was designed to provide much needed instructional materials and equipment. Each department that wanted a part of the funds submitted a proposal to the subcommittee. In the beginning, it was thought that to distribute fairly, the departments could each receive 10 percent chunks of the grant. However, some departments were completely passed over, while others received their full requests.

One possible problem could be that the subcommittee is comprised mainly of faculty and administration members from a narrow section of the campus.

On the committee, two of the faculty members are in the PE department and one administrator in administrative services is formerly from the PE department. The other two committee members are from speech/broadcasting and academic affairs (not receiving funds).

PE received 18.8 percent of the budget. Speech/broadcasting received 14.5 percent of the funding.

Library received 2.5 percent of the funds, not for instructional materials-- but for lighting, which falls under the category of maintanence. About $90,000 was taken off the grant for maintance before proposals were accepted. The proposal for the libary lighting was submitted after that money was allocated.

Biology, which has staff from members of the athletics department, received 15.1 percent of the grant. While it true the biology lab has been waiting for new equipment for some time, they are not the only department on campus in that situation.

We, in no way, feel this is a fair distribution of the funds. The final proposal from the subcommittee shows a definite slant towards the members' departments.

Health science, math, chemistry, music, art, and theater arts all received smaller grants than PE, speech/ broadcasting and biology . The other departments that applied did not receive anything.

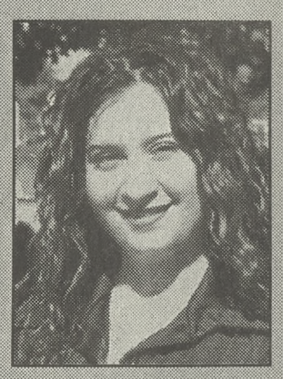
While the departments that did get funding most likely have a need for it, the funds were not distributed fairly. The largest chunks of the grant went to the departments that were involved with or related to the committee.

Since the bulk of the funds seem to be centered around specific groups, it would be desirable to investigate the matter more carefully for future allocations. Possibly, if grant money becomes available for next year, the departments that received significant pieces of the grant could withhold new proposals. That would allow funding for the ones that were passed over last time.

The Committee's proposal is not final. The final decision will be made in the Feb. 27 meeting of the College Council.

Do you volunteer to donate blood? Why or why not?

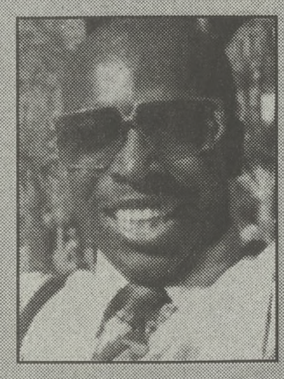
Natalie Tarpinian, 20
Yes. "I know if I needed it, someone would do it for me.



Sunshine Makhanian, 19. No. "I'm scared of needles."

Tyrone McLoud, 19. Yes. "If someone needs it, they can have it.

Erika Abbot, 24. Yes. "People have given me so much, it's time to give something back.



Mike Ifield, 23
Yes.
"I want to give my blood away!!!" (yelling)

Photo survey by Shashra Stewart

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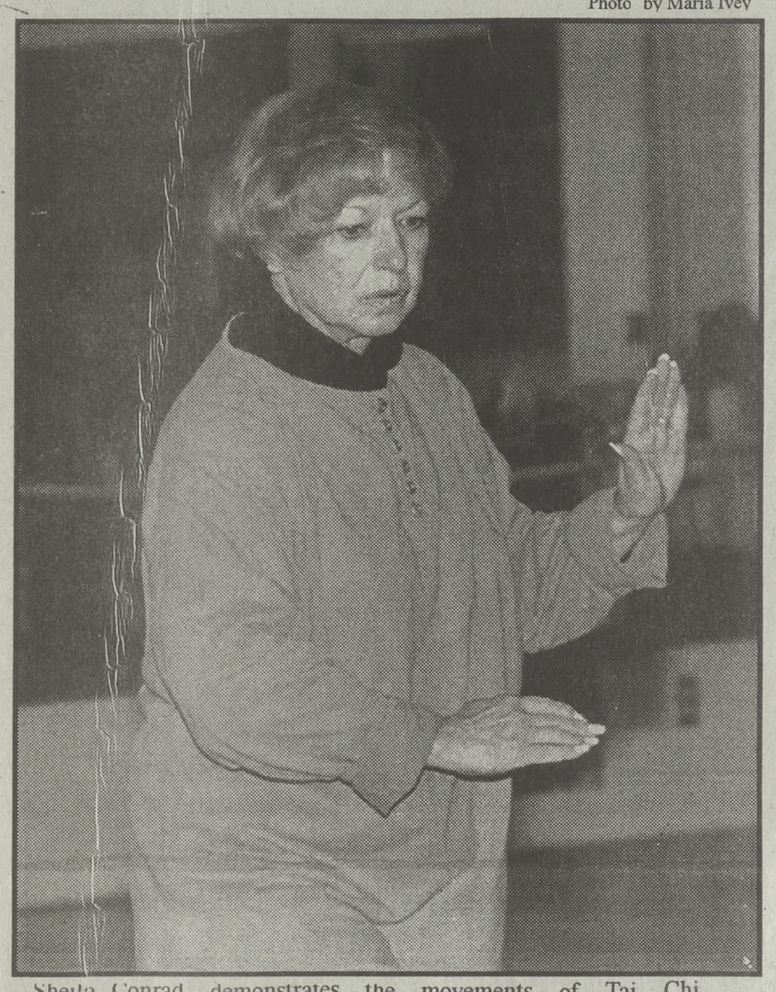
✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS

The Valley Star will receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations. Letter must be signed and include student's ID number. Letters may be dropped at the Valley Star Bungalow 25, by Monday morning for the following Thursday.

Photo by Maria Ivey



Sheila Conrad demonstrates the movements of Tai Chi.

From Acting to Yoga

By Monica Lid
Valley Star Staff Writer

Whether you want to release tension in the form of Tai Chi, or need to learn how to manage it with the help of stress-busting techniques, or maybe just try to balance yourself with a lesson in line dancing, you can do it all right here at Valley College.

To most students at LAVC, the Community Service Program is virtually unknown, but considering the fact that around two-hundred classes are being offered each quarter, this might be a service that more students should take advantage of.

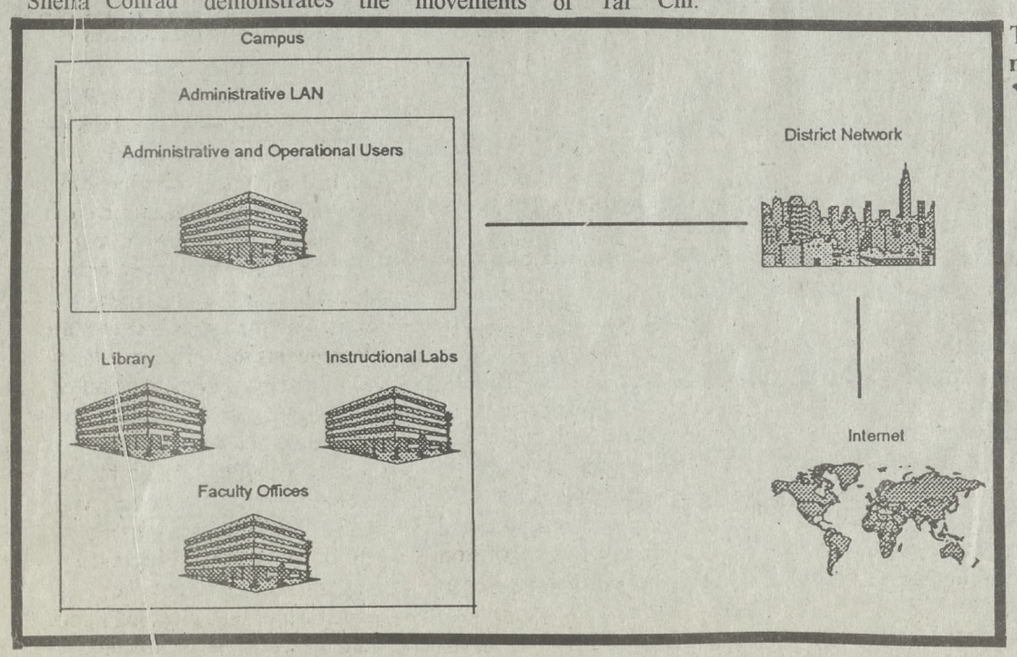
All classes are offered on a short-term basis ranging from one-day sessions to courses lasting up to eight weeks. With subjects as diverse as finance, foreign language, private investigation and judo, one should be able to find a course that will fulfill ones needs.

Despite the fact that the programs give no academic credit and cannot be used towards a certificate or degree program, they are considered of great personal value. All programs are chosen and developed carefully by the Community Service Office staff to meet community needs and all are being taught by professionals. Usually the teachers come from outside the LAVC staff, but as Bobbie Boulton, Project Manager, told The Star, "When any of the College staff members show interest in teaching a class, we take them into consideration. There are several reasons why people choose to enroll in the program, some because they want to upgrade their skills and for personal development, others use the programs to get a preview of a field of interest.

The management of the Community Service Program is located within The Field House, and is an office of Los Angeles Valley College although the program has been completely self-sustained since Proposition 13 of 1978, when it lost all district support. What this means is that the program is completely dependent on student enrollment for its survival and is therefore quite vulnerable to class cancellations. "Because of this, we always have to look at what the public wants," says Bobbie Boulton, "but if you want to take ballroom dancing, you better sign up the day it comes out." Other classes that are in high demand, according to Boulton, are computer and finance classes which have the great advantage of being intensive but at a short-term level.

Registration for the upcoming spring quarter starts with the distribution of the class-schedule in the first part of March, followed by two weeks of mail-in registration and two weeks of both mail and walk-in registration; classes will go into April and May. Other services offered by the Community Service Program is a summer day camp, where parents can leave their children with trained counselors for supervised activities, and different tours for the public in general.

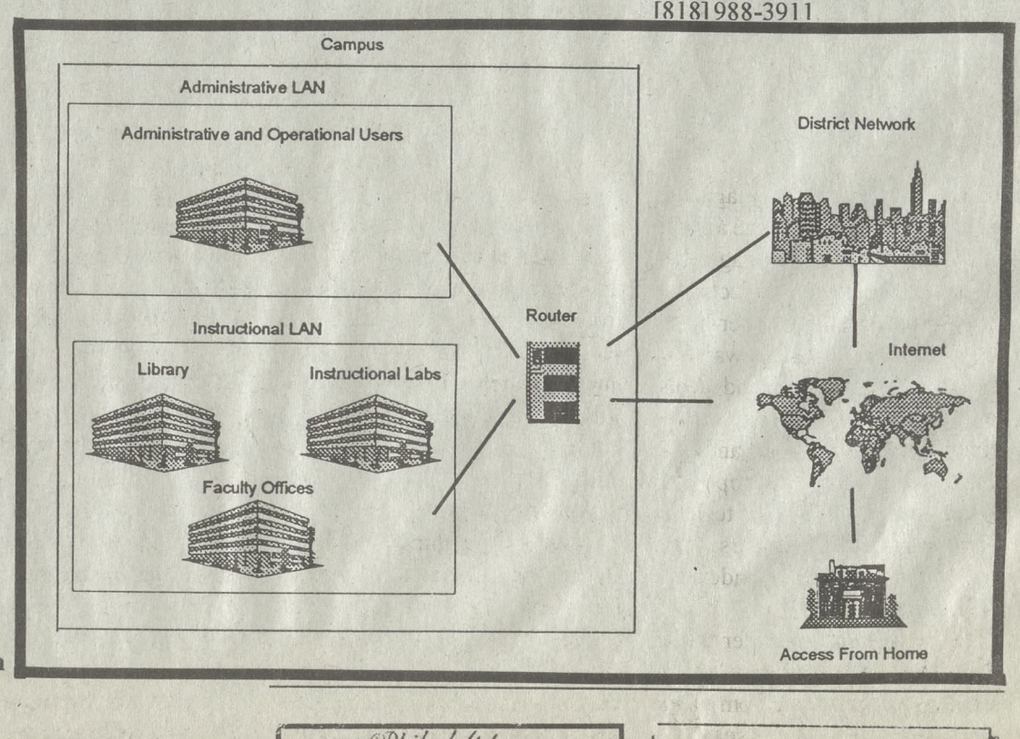
For more information call [818]988-3911



The current network system ←

LAVC Network Links

The future → network system



Internet on campus by fall 96

by Kelli Morgan
Valley Star Staff Writer

In the Fall 1996 semester, Valley College may be thrust into the 21st Century if a new instructional networking proposal in enacted.

On February 14, a proposal— that would expand faculty and student access to the Internet, was presented and discussed with the chancellor's cabinet of the Los Angeles Community College District.

On a District-wide level, increasing numbers of faculty and students have been asking for access to the Internet for instructional use.

While some colleges have already given faculty and students access, most campuses do not have "network privileges".

The cabinet gave it's OK on Wednesday to proceed with "analysis and discussion" of the project, and set a tentative goal to have the basic instructional network ready by the fall semester.

The main objectives of the proposal are to: "Create a separate instructional network on each campus to supplement the administrative networks already in place; link the libraries to the instructional network; link the instructional networks to the Internet; and support Internet access from home."

The cost of the entire project is unknown at this time and would vary at each campus; some campuses would need to acquire additional PCs as well as link the offices and labs to the network.

The information technology department of the District is proposing that $500,000 of the funds come from savings left over from the District-wide computer system conversion.

What does all of this mean to us? Not much right now, but when it does happen, eventually-- if not next fall, it will provide students and faculty with access to the whole world at their fingertips. Literally.

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Monarchs Headed for Play-offs

Men's Basketball in Second Place

By Sierra Roberts
Valley Star Staff Writer

Being tied for second place in the conference is a place the men's basketball team can call home. A conference record of 7-3, and an overall record of 22-10 have the Monarchs looking forward to their "second season" in the Regional Playoffs.

Head coach Michelson assures "we are still in the hunt" for the conference championship. "We're on of the top teams in Southern California and now we have the chance to prove it."

Players like Lamarr Thompson, last week's Western State Conference "Player of the Week" southern division, has lead the team with outstanding scoring and rebounding ability. Six foot, six inch, Sophomore Thompson averages 12.3 points per game. Other team leaders include Sophomores Nate Conner, Michael Farmer, and Tomer Yachini.

Upcomming Home Games

Womens Basketball:
Tue. Feb. 27. So. Calif. Regionals Round 1 vs. TBA 7:00

Men's Basketball:
Fri.. Feb. 23 So. Calif. Regionals Round 1 vs. Cuesta 7:30

Baseball:
Thurs. Feb. 22, vs. Cero Cosa 2:00
Sat. Mar. 2, vs. Pierce 1:00
Sat. Mar. 9, vs. Glendale 1:00

Softball:
Fri. Feb 23, vs. Cerritos 3:00
Wed. Feb 28, vs. Antelope Valley 3:30
Wed. Mar. 6, vs. Hancock 3:30

Swimming:
Fri. Feb. 23, vs. Ventura 2:30
Fri. Mar. 8, vs. Citurs 2:30

Track and Field:
Sat. Feb. 24, @ Cerritos Colllege 2:00

Women's B-Ball in First

By Sierra Roberts
Valley Star Staff Writer

For the First time in three years the Lady Monarchs have nabbed first place in the Southern division of the Western State Conference. Head Coach Taylor feels "Excellent!" and "Tremendous!" about the past season. Both he and his women's basketball team have their sights set on the Regional playoffs which begin next week.

With a 10-0 conference record and a 25-9 overall record, it's no wonder why these ladies are looking forward to the State finals in San Jose. To qualify, the team must win two regional games.

"Excellent!" "Tremendous!"
-Coach Taylor's feelings about this past season.

Much of the teams success can be attributed to Shawanda Hotchkiss who scored a career high of 39 points against College of the Canyons last week. Hotchkiss was named last week's WSC "Player of the Week" Southern Division. Sophomore Valery Brady has also accumulated many of Valley's points with 19 against College of the Canyons and 15 against Santa Monica.

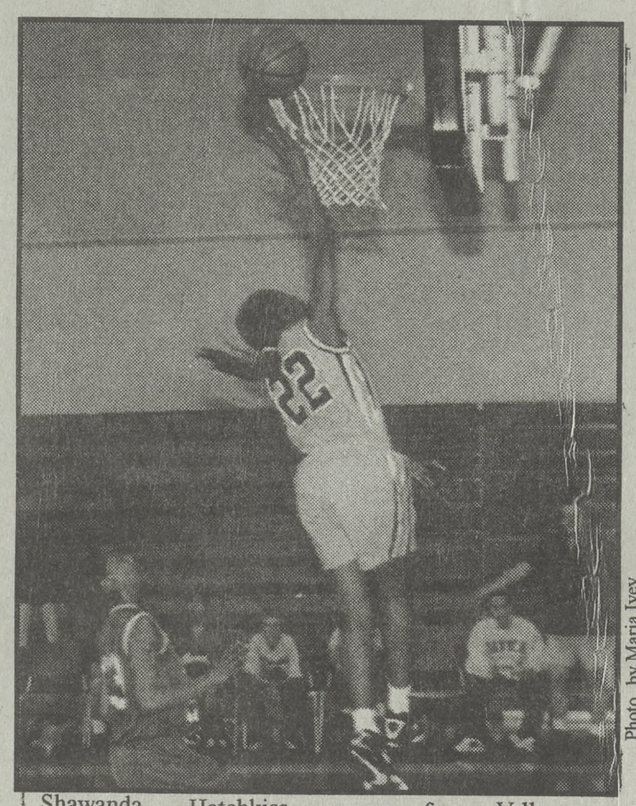

Photo by Maria Ivey

Shawanda Hotchkiss scores for Valley.

Trojan to Lead Monarchs to Victory

New Track Coach focuses on Field Events

By Leo Mayorga
Valley Star Staff Writer

Scott West was Discovered after more than two years of practicing and improving his shot put technique at Valley College's track. The newly acquired shot put, hammer, and discuss throw coach, is the newest addition to the Monarch's track and field staff. He hopes to strengthen the Monarch's field events as well as improve their technique.

West, a 39-year old athlete, has an impressive background. The USC graduate competed for the Trojans from 1974-78 helping them achieve a national championship during his senior year. He set the Trojan's record for hammer throw in 1978 by launching nearly 180 feet.

" I'd like to see that the kids have a good time doing this. Hopefully they will learn some technique and learn to do the events properly. So, if they do go to four year colleges, or they want to throw later on, at least they'll have a good base to build on," said West.

West is an active athlete of the Master's competition, tournaments designed for athletes 30 years or older, and finished second in the shot put and fifth in the hammer throw two years ago in Oregon.

He also took second place in the indoor national championships at Reno, Nevada, in the shot put last year.

"I'm really glad to have him on the team because he has a lot of expertise in the shot put, hammer, and discuss throw. He is somebody who can just concentrate with our athletes so he's going to be valuable," said Monarch's track and field coach Kevin Galbraith.

West will be working closely with Jeff Gross and Emmy M. Vargas, field events specialists, and hopes that with his help, guidance and coaching he can bring them to state's final level by the end of the season. " I think one thing that maybe of benefit is that my age is a little bit closer the kids, maybe I can relate to some of their problems. I haven't been out of school as long as some of the coaches . Being new I'm a little bit more aggressive," said West.

This will mark the first time Valley College will compete with the aid of a coach who will be entirely focused on field events. Having been a collegiate athlete West might be, to an extent, better than some coaches who have never competed in the sport. Some coaches tend to concentrate more on track events and less on field events. " I've had other coaches before who were involved with, and focused more on running events," said Vargas.

Due to his hiring so late in the year West was unable to recruit athletes. In the future West hopes to establish summer and recruiting programs that will bring awareness of field events and strengthen the program.

With more championships on his mind, West will continue to participate in Master's competition. The schedule of Monarch's track and field meets and Master's competition coincide so that West is able to concentrate and focus on each to the best of his ability. " It works out real good. I can workout with the kids and help them, and once they're done with their track season I can go into my own thing," said West.

Hoping to follow the oldest known Master's competitor, a 103 year old woman, West will keep competing . " I hope to compete as long as my body holds and as long s my wife will let me,' said West.

With an extensive and successful collegiate and Master's experience in field events, West will be a key factor to the Monarch's short and long run success.

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